Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, For more than 122 years, the American Red Cross has honored its mission: to provide relief to victims of disaster while helping people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. Last year alone, more than 1,577 silent heroes helped our neighbors by supporting the efforts of the Red Cross in South Dakota and over 13,000 more took the time to learn lifesaving skills such as first aid, CPR, and defibrillator use; and,

Whereas, 167 families who survived disasters – from fires that affected a single structure to Tornado Tuesday – received help from the South Dakota Red Cross last year. More than 1,000 U.S. military families received direct assistance from the South Dakota Red Cross chapters, keeping them connected in times of great personal sorrow and joy; and,

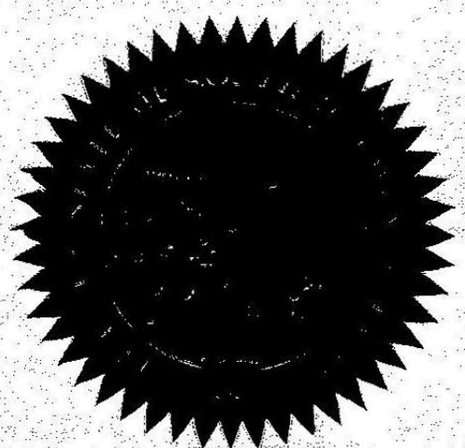
Whereas, Today, in a collaborative effort with the federal government and other members of the emergency planning community, the South Dakota chapters of the Red Cross and their partners are better able to serve the community. Through its bold, new Together We Prepare initiative, the Red Cross is leading the way in empowering individuals and families to protect themselves. With five simple steps – make a plan, build a kit, get trained, volunteer, and give blood – the South Dakota Chapters of the Red Cross and the citizens of South Dakota will help make their communities safer; and,

Whereas, On behalf of a grateful state, it is fitting and proper that, as Governor of the state of South Dakota, I applaud and recognize the selfless dedication of generations of Red Crossers:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 2004, as

RED CROSS MONTH

in South Dakota, and call upon our citizens to become partners in preparedness with their local Red Cross chapters, and to become active participants in advancing its noble mission.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-seventh Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State